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SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Extract from the report of the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fourth session*

* The present document is a mimeographed version of chapter 1 of the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-fourth session, which contains the draft resolutions and draft decisions recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. The complete report will be issued as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3 (E/1998/23).

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I. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Draft resolutions

I. Question of a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/7 of 3 April 1998, in which the Commission approved the text of the draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms (E/CN.4/1998/98, annex),

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Commission on Human Rights for finalizing the draft declaration;

2. Approves the draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, as contained in the annex to resolution 1998/7 and recommends it to the General Assembly for adoption at its fifty-third session;

3. Recommends that, after adoption by the General Assembly, the full text of the Declaration should be disseminated as widely as possible.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/7, and chap. XIX.]

II. Working group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/14 of 9 April 1998,

1. Authorizes the open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights established in accordance with Commission resolution 1995/32 of 3 March 1995 to meet for a period of ten working days prior to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission, the costs of the meeting to be met from within existing resources;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to extend all necessary facilities, from within existing United Nations resources, to the working group for its meetings.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/14, and chap. XXIII.]

III. Question of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/34 of 17 April 1998,

1. Authorizes an open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights to meet for a period of two weeks, with a possibility of extending it to three weeks, within existing resources, prior to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission in order to continue or conclude the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to extend to the working group all necessary facilities for its meetings and to transmit the report of the working group (E/CN.4/1998/42 and Corr.1) to Governments, the specialized agencies, the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/34, and chap. VIII.]

B. Draft decisions

1. The use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/6 of 27 March 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to extend for three years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination and to request the Special Rapporteur, in carrying out his mandate, to seek and receive credible and reliable information from Governments, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

The Council also approves the Commission's request to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as a matter of priority, to publicize the adverse effects of mercenary activities on the right of peoples to self-determination and, when requested and where necessary, to render advisory services to States that are affected by the activities of mercenaries.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/6, and chap. VII.]

2. Adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/12 of 9 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to renew

for a period of three years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights in order that she may continue to undertake, in consultation with the relevant United Nations bodies and organizations and the secretariats of relevant international conventions, a global, multidisciplinary and comprehensive study of existing problems of and solutions to illicit traffic in and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes, in particular in developing countries, with a view to making concrete recommendations and proposals on adequate measures to control, reduce and eradicate these phenomena.

The Council approves the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to make all necessary resources available to the Special Rapporteur to enable her to carry out her mandate successfully and, in particular, to provide her with adequate financial and human resources, including administrative support.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/12, and chap. V.]

3. Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/13 of 9 April 1998, authorizes the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to meet for five working days prior to the fiftieth session of the Subcommission, and approves the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to provide adequate resources and assistance to the Working Group in the discharge of its tasks, including adequate dissemination of information about the activities of the Working Group to Governments, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and organizations of indigenous people, in order to encourage the widest possible participation in its work.

The Council also approves the Commission's request to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to consider organizing, taking into account the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and the priority to be given to education and language at the sixteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, and recognizing the importance of strengthening the capacity of indigenous people to develop their own solutions to their problems, a workshop for research and higher education institutions focusing on indigenous issues in education, to improve exchange of information between such institutions and to encourage future cooperation, in consultation with indigenous people and in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant United Nations bodies.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/13, and chap. XXIII.]

4. Migrants and human rights

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/16 of 9 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to reconvene the working group of intergovernmental experts on the human rights of migrants, on the same basis, in order that it may fulfil its mandate as set out

in paragraph 3 of Commission resolution 1997/15 of 3 April 1997, to meet for two periods of five working days prior to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/16, and chap. XI.]

5. Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/18 of 9 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to extend for three years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur appointed to examine incidents and governmental actions in all parts of the world that are incompatible with the provisions of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief and to recommend remedial measures, as appropriate.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/18, and chap. XVIII.]

6. Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/19 of 9 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Working Group on Minorities of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities with a view to its holding one session of five working days annually.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/19, and chap. XVI.]

7. A permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/20 of 9 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to establish an open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc working group, from within existing overall United Nations resources, to elaborate and consider further proposals for the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system, and approves the Commission's request that the ad hoc working group meet for five working days prior to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/20, and chap. XXIII.]

8. The right to food

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/23 of 17 April 1998, approves the Commission's decision to endorse the proposal made by the Consultation on the Right to Adequate Food to

have a follow-up meeting in 1998 to pursue the discussions on the content and means of implementation of the rights related to adequate food in order to provide the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with a full set of recommendations concerning her response to the request of the World Food Summit in objective 7.4 (e) of the Plan of Action of the Summit and, in this regard, to invite the High Commissioner to promote and encourage broader participation by experts from Member States, relevant specialized agencies and programmes, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and non-governmental organizations.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/23, and chap. V.]

9. Effects on the full enjoyment of human rights of the economic adjustment policies arising from foreign debt and, in particular, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/24 of 17 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision, in particular in the light of recent trends, to appoint, for a three-year period, a special rapporteur on the effects of foreign debt on the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, and approves the Commission's request to the Special Rapporteur to present to the Commission, on an annual basis, beginning at its fifty-fifth session, an analytical report on the implementation of resolution 1998/24.

The Council also approves the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary assistance, in particular the staff and resources required to perform his or her functions.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/24, and chap. V.]

10. Human rights and extreme poverty

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/25 of 17 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to appoint, for a period of two years, an independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty to:

(a) Evaluate the relationship between the promotion and protection of human rights and extreme poverty, including through the evaluation of measures taken at the national and international levels to promote the full enjoyment of human rights by persons living in extreme poverty;

(b) Take into account in particular the obstacles encountered and progress made by women living in extreme poverty as regards the enjoyment of their fundamental rights;

(c) Make recommendations and, as appropriate, proposals in the sphere of technical assistance;

(d) Report on these activities to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions and to make those reports available to the

Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, as appropriate, for their sessions during the same years;

(e) Contribute to the General Assembly's evaluation in 2000 of the World Summit for Social Development by making his or her final report and conclusions available to the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to that evaluation;

(f) Make suggestions to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session on the main points of a possible draft declaration on human rights and extreme poverty so that the Commission can consider the possibility of initiating at the fifty-first session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities the drafting by that body of a text for examination by the Commission and possible adoption by the General Assembly, and to take into account in that regard, inter alia, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the Agenda for Development and the final report of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Leandro Despouy (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/13).

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/25, and chap. V.]

11. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and and related intolerance

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/26 of 17 April 1998, approves the Commission's requests:

(a) To the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a detailed report on the financial and personnel resources required for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and to the General Assembly to consider the possibility of providing the resources required for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade;

(b) To the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to take duly into account the repeated appeals of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for the establishment of a mechanism within the Office of the High Commissioner as a focal point for coordinating all the activities of the Third Decade before they are carried out by the United Nations.

The Council endorses the Commission's decision to create an open-ended working group of the Commission to meet during the fifty-fifth session in order to review and formulate proposals for consideration by the Commission and possible forwarding to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance at its first session.

The Council also endorses the Commission's recommendations to the General Assembly:

(a) To request the Secretary-General to designate as Secretary-General of the World Conference the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, who,

in that capacity, would assume the main responsibility for the preparations for the Conference;

(b) To declare 2001 a year of mobilization against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance with the aim of drawing the world's attention to the objectives of the World Conference and giving new momentum to the political commitment.

The Council also approves the Commission's recommendations:

(a) That the activities of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination be focused towards the preparatory process for the World Conference and, in this regard, that the High Commissioner for Human Rights organize symposia, seminars and worldwide consultations in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(b) That the World Conference result in a declaration and a programme of action to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The Council further approves the Commission's requests to the High Commissioner for Human Rights:

(a) To help States and regional organizations to convene national and regional meetings or undertake other initiatives, including at the expert level, to prepare for the World Conference, and its request to the regional preparatory meetings to present to the Preparatory Committee, through the High Commissioner, reports on the results of their deliberations, with concrete and pragmatic recommendations aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, which will be duly reflected in the draft final documents to be prepared by the Preparatory Committee;

(b) To inform the Preparatory Committee of the steps taken to prepare the World Conference.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/26, and chap. XII.]

12. Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/27 of 17 April 1998, approves the Commission's requests to the Secretary-General:

(a) To provide adequate resources in respect of each human rights treaty body;

(b) To make the most efficient use of existing resources in order to give the human rights treaty bodies adequate administrative support and better access to technical expertise and relevant information;

(c) To seek in the next biennium the resources within the United Nations regular budget necessary to give the human rights treaty bodies adequate

administrative support and better access to technical expertise and relevant information;

(d) To report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session on measures taken to implement resolution 1998/27 and obstacles to its implementation, and on measures taken or planned to ensure financing and adequate staff and information resources for the effective operation of the human rights treaty bodies.

The Council also approves the Commission's request to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to take the necessary measures to ensure that the revised Manual on Human Rights Reporting is translated into all the official United Nations languages at the latest by 31 December 2000.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/27, and chap. XIV.]

13. Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/33 of 17 April 1998, authorizes the Commission, as part of its efforts to impart a higher visibility to economic, social and cultural rights, to appoint, for a period of three years, a special rapporteur whose mandate will focus on the right to education as laid down in article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and will comprise the tasks enumerated in paragraph 6 (a) (i) to (viii) of resolution 1998/33.

The Council requests the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the assistance necessary for the execution of his mandate.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/33, and chap. V.]

14. Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/38 of 17 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to extend for three years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture.

The Council approves the Commission's requests to the Secretary-General to continue to include the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture on an annual basis among the programmes for which funds are pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, and to ensure, within the overall budgetary framework of the United Nations, the provision of an adequate and stable level of staffing as well as the necessary technical

facilities for the United Nations bodies and mechanisms dealing with torture, in order to ensure their effective performance.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/38, and chap. VIII.]

15. Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/40 of 17 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to renew for a period of three years the mandate of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, comprising five independent experts.

The Council approves the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to ensure that the Working Group receives all the assistance and resources, especially a database on cases of enforced disappearance, that it requires to perform its function, carry out and follow up missions, hold sessions in countries that would be prepared to receive it and update the database.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/40, and chap. VIII.]

16. The right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of grave violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/43 of 17 April 1998, approves the Commission's request to the Chairman of the Commission to appoint an expert to prepare a revised version of the basic principles and guidelines elaborated by the former Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Mr. Theo van Boven, taking into account the views and comments provided by States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and to submit it to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, with a view to its adoption by the General Assembly.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/43, and chap. VIII.]

17. Internally displaced persons

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/50 of 17 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons for a further three years.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/50, and chap. IX.]

18. National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/55 of 17 April 1998, approves the Commission's requests to the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to provide, from within existing resources, the necessary assistance for holding meetings of the Coordinating Committee created by national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights during the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, under the auspices of, and in cooperation with, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(b) To continue to provide, from within existing resources and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, the necessary assistance for regional meetings of national institutions.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/55, and chap. IX.]

19. Situation of human rights in Cambodia

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/60 of 17 April 1998, approves the Commission's requests to the Secretary-General:

(a) Through his Special Representative for human rights in Cambodia, in collaboration with the office in Cambodia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to assist the Government of Cambodia in ensuring the protection of the human rights of all people in Cambodia and to ensure adequate resources for the enhanced functioning of the operational presence in Cambodia of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and to enable the Special Representative to continue to fulfil his tasks expeditiously;

(b) To examine the request by the Cambodian authorities for assistance in responding to past serious violations of Cambodian and international law, including the possibility of the appointment, by the Secretary-General, of a group of experts to evaluate the existing evidence and propose further measures, as a means of bringing about national reconciliation, strengthening democracy and addressing the issue of individual accountability.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/60, and chap. XVII.]

20. Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/61 of 21 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a further year, to request the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session on human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and on the possibilities

for the international community to assist with local capacity-building, and to request him to continue to keep a gender perspective in mind when seeking and analysing information.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/61, and chap. X.]

21. Situation of human rights in Myanmar

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/63 of 21 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, as contained in Commission resolution 1992/58 of 3 March 1992, for a further year, and to request the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, and to keep a gender perspective in mind when seeking and analysing information.

The Council approves the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to continue to give all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur to enable him to discharge his mandate fully and to pursue all efforts to ensure that the Special Rapporteur is authorized to visit Myanmar.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/63, and chap. X.]

22. Situation of human rights in Nigeria

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/64 of 21 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision:

(a) To extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Nigeria, as contained in Commission resolution 1997/53 of 15 April 1997, for a further year, and to request the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, and to keep a gender perspective in mind when seeking and analysing information;

(b) To request the Secretary-General to continue to give all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur to enable him to discharge his mandate fully.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/64, and chap. X.]

23. Situation of human rights in Iraq

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/65 of 21 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iraq, as contained in Commission resolution 1991/74 of 6 March 1991 and subsequent resolutions, for a further year, and to request the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report on the situation of human rights in Iraq

to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session.

The Council approves the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to continue to give all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur to enable him to discharge his mandate fully, and to approve the allocation of sufficient human and material resources for the sending of human rights monitors to such locations as would facilitate improved information flow and assessment and help in the independent verification of reports on the situation of human rights in Iraq.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/65, and chap. X.]

24. Situation of human rights in the Sudan

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/67 of 21 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan for an additional year, and approves the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to give the Special Rapporteur all necessary assistance, from within existing resources, in the discharge of his mandate.

The Council also approves the Commission's requests to the Special Rapporteur to report to the Commission on the future need for human rights field officers, with the understanding that the Commission will, at its fifty-fifth session, reassess such need, and to report his findings and recommendations to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/67, and chap. X.]

25. Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/68 of 21 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions for three years, and approves the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with an adequate and stable level of human, financial and material resources, in order to enable him to continue to carry out his mandate effectively, including through country visits.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/68, and chap. X.]

26. Situation of human rights in Rwanda

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/69 of 21 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to extend for a further year the mandate of the Special Representative of the Commission on the situation of human rights in Rwanda to make recommendations on how to improve the human rights situation in Rwanda, to facilitate the creation

and effective functioning of an independent national human rights commission in Rwanda, and further to make recommendations on situations in which technical assistance to the Government of Rwanda in the field of human rights may be appropriate, and approves the Commission's request to the Special Representative to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, in accordance with his mandate, and its request to the Secretary-General to provide the Special Representative with such financial assistance as he may require to discharge his mandate.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/69, and chap. X.]

27. Situation of human rights in Afghanistan

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/70 of 21 April 1998, approves the Commission's requests to the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan and to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure a human rights presence in the context of the United Nations activities in Afghanistan in order to provide advice and training in the field of human rights to all the Afghan parties, as well as to the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field.

The Council endorses the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for one year, and to request the Special Rapporteur to report on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/70, and chap. X.]

28. Situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea and assistance in the field of human rights

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/71 of 21 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea for one year, and approves the Commission's requests to the Special Rapporteur to submit to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session a report stressing, in particular, recommendations on technical assistance needs of Equatorial Guinea in the fields of human rights and democracy, and to the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary assistance for the discharge of his mandate.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/71, and chap. X.]

29. The right to development

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/72 of 22 April 1998, endorses the Commission's recommendation, in view of the urgent need to make further progress towards the realization of the right to development as elaborated in the Declaration on the Right to

Development, to establish a follow-up mechanism, initially for a period of three years, consisting of:

(a) The establishment of an open-ended working group to meet for a period of five working days each year, after the fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, with a mandate:

(i) To monitor and review progress made in the promotion and implementation of the right to development as elaborated in the Declaration on the Right to Development, at the national and international levels, providing recommendations thereon and further analysing obstacles to its full enjoyment, focusing each year on specific commitments in the Declaration;

(ii) To review reports and any other information submitted by States, United Nations agencies, other relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations on the relationship between their activities and the right to development;

(iii) To present for the consideration of the Commission on Human Rights a sessional report on its deliberations, including, inter alia, advice to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with regard to the implementation of the right to development, and suggesting possible programmes of technical assistance at the request of interested countries with the aim of promoting the implementation of the right to development;

(b) The appointment by the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights of an independent expert with high competence in the field of the right to development, with a mandate to present to the working group at each of its sessions a study on the current state of progress in the implementation of the right to development as a basis for a focused discussion, taking into account, inter alia, the deliberations and suggestions of the working group.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/72, and chap. VI.]

30. Human rights and thematic procedures

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/74 of 22 April 1998, approves the Commission's request to the Secretary-General, in implementing the United Nations budget for the current biennium, to ensure the availability of such resources as are necessary for the effective implementation of all human rights thematic mandates, including any additional tasks entrusted to the thematic special rapporteurs, representatives, experts and working groups by the appropriate United Nations organs.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/74, and chap. IX.]

31. Rights of the child

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/76 of 22 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decisions:

(a) With regard to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to request the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of appropriate staff and facilities from the United Nations regular budget for the effective and expeditious performance of the functions of the Committee, while noting the temporary support given by the Plan of Action of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, based on voluntary contributions, which provide human resources to assist the Committee with the increasing workload due to the near universalization of the Convention, and to request the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to brief Governments regularly on the implementation of the Plan of Action;

(b) With regard to the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further three years, to request the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary assistance, and to urge all relevant parts of the United Nations system to provide the Special Rapporteur with comprehensive reporting to make the full discharge of her mandate possible and to enable her to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and a report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session;

(c) With regard to the question of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, to request the working group on the question of a draft optional protocol to meet for a period of two weeks prior to the next session of the Commission on Human Rights and to redouble its efforts with the aim of finalizing the draft optional protocol by the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and, to that end, to encourage the Chairman of the working group to conduct broad informal consultations;

(d) With regard to the draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts, to encourage the Chairman of the working group on the draft optional protocol to conduct broad informal consultations with the aim of promoting an early agreement on the optional protocol and to produce a report thereon by the end of 1998 including, if possible, recommendations and/or ideas on the best way for the formal negotiations to proceed; to request the working group to meet in early 1999, primarily to consider the Chairman's report on the status of the informal consultations, which should be available well in advance, and to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session; to request the Secretary-General to give the necessary support to the working group to meet for a maximum of two weeks, if the working group decides that an agreement on the draft optional protocol is possible at that session; and to reaffirm the aim of finalizing the draft optional protocol by the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(e) With regard to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the impact of armed conflict on children, to recommend that the Secretary-General ensure that the necessary support is made available to the Special Representative for the effective performance of his mandate, to encourage the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide support to the Special Representative, and to call

upon other institutions and States to provide voluntary contributions for that purpose.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/76, and chap. XX.]

32. Situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/79 of 22 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for one year and welcomes the appointment of a new Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Council approves the Commission's request to the new Special Rapporteur, in addition to the activities mandated in Commission resolutions 1994/72 of 9 March 1994, 1996/71 of 23 April 1996 and 1997/57 of 15 April 1997:

(a) To work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the United Nations in dealing with the question of missing persons, including by participation in the International Commission on Missing Persons advisory group and other groups involved in missing persons issues, such as those chaired by the Office of the High Representative and the International Committee of the Red Cross, and to include in his report to the Commission on Human Rights information about activities concerning missing persons in the former Yugoslavia;

(b) To pay particular attention to the situation of persons belonging to ethnic minorities, displaced persons, refugees and returnees who fall within his mandate;

(c) To address human rights issues that transcend the borders between the States covered by his mandate and which can be addressed only through concerted action in more than one country.

The Council also approves the Commission's requests that the Special Rapporteur carry out missions to:

(a) Bosnia and Herzegovina;

(b) The Republic of Croatia, including Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium;

(c) The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, including to Kosovo, as well as to Sandjak and Vojvodina.

The Council also endorses the Commission's decisions:

(a) To request the Special Rapporteur to report to the Commission, at its fifty-fifth session, on the work carried out in fulfilment of his mandate and to present interim reports to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

(b) To request the Secretary-General to continue to make the Special Rapporteur's reports available to the Security Council and to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

(c) To urge the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to make all necessary resources available for the Special Rapporteur to carry out his mandate successfully and, in particular, to provide him with adequate staff based in the countries of the mandate to ensure effective continuous monitoring of the human rights situation in those countries and coordination with other international organizations involved.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/79, and chap. X.]

33. Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/80 of 22 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Representative of the Commission on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, as contained in Commission resolution 1984/54 of 14 March 1984, for a further year, to request the Special Representative to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, and to keep a gender perspective in mind when seeking and analysing information, and to request the Secretary-General to continue to give all necessary assistance to the Special Representative to enable him to discharge his mandate fully.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/80, and chap. X.]

34. Situation of human rights in Burundi

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/82 of 24 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi for one year, and to request him to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and a report to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, and to give his work a gender-specific dimension.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/82, and chap. X.]

35. Question of resources for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the human rights activities of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/83 of 24 April 1998, approves the Commission's appeal to the Council and to the Secretary-General and the General Assembly to take all necessary steps, without delay, to secure for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and for other relevant components of the Organization regular budget resources for the current and future bienniums that will be sufficient to permit the effective fulfilment of the responsibilities

and mandates established by Member States and commensurate with the importance assigned by the Charter of the United Nations to the promotion and protection of human rights.

[See chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1998/83, and chap. III.]

36. Effects of structural adjustment policies on the full enjoyment of human rights

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 1998/102 of 9 April 1998, endorses the Commission's decision to authorize the open-ended working group on structural adjustment programmes and economic, social and cultural rights to meet for one week, at least four weeks before the fifty-fifth session of the Commission, to consider the report of the independent expert and the comments received thereon and to report to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session.

In order that the working group may carry out its mandate, the Council decides:

(a) To request the Secretary-General to circulate the report of the independent expert to Governments, United Nations bodies, in particular the regional commissions, the specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, particularly those involved in development, and academic institutions and organizations representing disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, and to invite them to submit their comments thereon to the working group at its next session;

(b) To request the Secretary-General to invite and encourage non-governmental organizations involved in development and working in the field to participate actively in the sessions of the working group;

(c) To request the Secretary-General to provide all the necessary assistance and resources to enable the working group to complete its task and to provide the independent expert with all the necessary assistance and resources to carry out his mandate.

[See chap. II, sect. B, decision 1998/102, and chap. V.]

37. Protection of the heritage of indigenous people

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 1998/103 of 9 April 1998 and resolution 1997/13 of 22 August 1997 of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, approves the Commission's decision to endorse the recommendation of the Subcommission that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights organize a seminar on the draft principles and guidelines for the protection of the heritage of indigenous people (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/31, annex) and the participation of the Special Rapporteur, Ms. Erica-Irene A. Daes, representatives of Governments, United Nations bodies and organizations,

specialized agencies and organizations of indigenous people, and competent indigenous persons.

[See chap. II, sect. B, decision 1998/103, and chap. XXIII.]

38. Freedom of movement and population transfer

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 1998/106 of 17 April 1998 and resolution 1997/29 of 28 August 1997 of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, approves the Commission's recommendation that the final report of Mr. Awn Al-Khasawneh, Special Rapporteur on human rights and population transfer (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/23), be published and widely disseminated.

[See chap. II, sect. B, decision 1998/106, and chap. IX.]

39. Human rights and terrorism

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 1998/107 of 17 April 1998 and resolution 1997/39 of 28 August 1997 of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, endorses the Commission's decision to approve the appointment of Ms. Kalliopi K. Koufa as Special Rapporteur to conduct a comprehensive study on terrorism and human rights on the basis of her working paper (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/28), and to request the Special Rapporteur to submit a preliminary report to the Subcommission at its fiftieth session, a progress report at its fifty-first session and a final report at its fifty-second session.

The Council approves the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the assistance necessary to enable her to accomplish her task.

[See chap. II, sect. B, decision 1998/107, and chap. IX.]

40. Question of human rights and states of emergency

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 1998/108 of 21 April 1998 and resolution 1997/27 of 28 August 1997 of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, endorses the Commission's decision to request the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit to the Subcommission at its fifty-first session, and every second year thereafter, a list of States in which a state of emergency was proclaimed or was continued during the reporting period.

[See chap. II, sect. B, decision 1998/108, and chap. XV.]

41. Organization of the work of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 1998/110 of 22 April 1998, approves the Commission's recommendation, bearing in mind Council decisions 1994/297 of 29 July 1994 and 1995/296 of 25 July 1995, that the fifty-fifth session of the Commission should be scheduled to take place from 15 March to 23 April 1999.

[See chap. II, sect. B, decision 1998/110, and chap. III.]

42. Organization of the work of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 1998/111 of 22 April 1998, authorizes, if possible within existing financial resources, thirty fully serviced additional meetings, including summary records, in accordance with rules 29 and 31 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, for the Commission's fifty-fifth session. The Council approves the Commission's request to the Chairman of the Commission at its fifty-fifth session to make every effort to organize the work of the session within the times normally allotted, so that the additional meetings authorized by the Council would be utilized only if they proved to be absolutely necessary.

[See chap. II, sect. B, decision 1998/111, and chap. III.]

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Agenda item 7

COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS

Bahamas*, Bangladesh, Bolivia*, Burkina Faso*, Burundi*, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica*, Côte d'Ivoire*, Democratic Republic of the Congo*, El Salvador, Fiji*, Guyana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of)*, Japan, Kazakhstan*, Kenya*, Lesotho, Malawi*, Malaysia*, Mauritius, Namibia*, Nepal*, New Zealand, Panama*, Peru*, Philippines*, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*, Senegal*, Sri Lanka, Sudan*, Syrian Arab Republic*, Thailand*, Tunisia and United Republic of Tanzania*: draft resolution

International Year of Microcredit 2005

The Economic and Social Council,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"International Year of Microcredit 2005

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 52/194 of 18 December 1997 entitled 'Role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty',

"Recognizing that microcredit programmes have successfully contributed to lifting people out of poverty in many countries around the world,

* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

"Bearing in mind that microcredit programmes have especially benefited women and have resulted in the achievement of their empowerment,

"Recognizing that microcredit programmes, in addition to their role in the eradication of poverty, have also been a contributing factor to the social and human development process,

"Bearing in mind the importance of microfinance instruments such as credit, savings and related business services in providing access to capital for people living in poverty,

"Noting the support to microcredit in the outcomes of different summit and high-level meetings, including the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (New Delhi, 7 and 8 April 1997), the Ninth Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Male, 12-14 May 1997), the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-third ordinary session (Harare, 2-4 June 1997), the Group of Seven statement on economic and financial issues (Denver, United States of America, 21 June 1997), the substantive session of 1997 of the Economic and Social Council (Geneva, 30 June-25 July 1997), the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (Edinburgh, 24-27 October 1997) and the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (Cartagena, 18-20 May 1998),

"Noting also that the year 2005 is the final year of the campaign of the Microcredit Summit (Washington, D.C., 2-4 February 1997), which, through its Declaration and Programme of Action,[1] endorsed a global campaign to reach 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially women of those families, with credit for self-employment and other financial and business services, by that year,

"Noting further that the international community is observing the period 1997-2006 as the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty,

"1. Proclaims the year 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit;

"2. Requests that the observance of the Year be a special occasion for giving impetus to microcredit programmes throughout the world;

"3. Invites Governments, the United Nations system, all concerned non-governmental organizations, other actors of civil society, the private sector and the media to highlight and give enhanced recognition to the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty, its contribution to social development and its positive impact on the lives of people living in poverty;

"4. Invites all involved in the eradication of poverty to consider taking additional steps, including strengthening of existing and emerging

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[1] A/52/113, annex I.

microcredit institutions and their capacities, so that credit and related services for self-employment and income-generating activities may be made available to increasing number of people living in poverty and to further develop where appropriate, other microfinance instruments;

"5. Invites the Secretary-General to present to it at its fifty-eighth session a report containing a draft programme of action for the effective observance of the Year, in consultation with all relevant actors including United Nations bodies, under an item entitled 'First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty' to be included in the provisional agenda of that session."

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Agenda item 7

COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS

Bahamas*, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia*, Burkina Faso*, Burundi*, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica*, Côte d'Ivoire*, Democratic Republic of the Congo*, Dominican Republic*, El Salvador, Eritrea*, Fiji*, Guyana, India, Indonesia*, Iran (Islamic Republic of)*, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan*, Kenya*, Lesotho, Malawi*, Malaysia*, Mauritius, Morocco*, Namibia*, Nepal*, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama*, Peru*, Philippines*, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*, Senegal*, Slovenia*, Sri Lanka, Sudan*, Syrian Arab Republic*, Thailand*, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania* and Vanuatu*: draft resolution

International Year of Microcredit, 2005

Corrigendum

The list of co-sponsors should read as above.

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

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Agenda item 11

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REPERCUSSIONS OF THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION ON THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY, INCLUDING JERUSALEM, AND THE ARAB POPULATION IN THE OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN

Algeria, Bangladesh, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt*, Jordan, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates*: draft resolution

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/207 of 18 December 1997,

Recalling also its resolution 1997/67 of 25 July 1997,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[1] to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

Stressing the importance of the revival of the Middle East peace process on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 and 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978, and the principle of land for peace as well as the full and timely implementation of the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources,

Convinced that the Israeli occupation impedes efforts to achieve sustainable development and a sound economic environment in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan,

Gravely concerned about the deterioration of economic and living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan, and the exploitation by Israel, the occupying Power, of their natural resources,

Aware of the important work being done by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in support of the economic and social development of the Palestinian people,

Conscious of the urgent need for the development of the economic and social infrastructure of the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and for the improvement of the living conditions of the Palestinian people as a key element of a lasting peace and stability,

1. Stresses the need to preserve the territorial integrity of all of the occupied Palestinian territory and to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods in the territory, including the removal of restrictions on going into and from East Jerusalem, and the freedom of movement to and from the outside world;

2. Also stresses the vital importance of the operation and construction of the Gaza airport, the seaport in Gaza and safe passage to the economic and social development of the Palestinian people;

3. Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its measures against the Palestinian people, in particular the closure of the occupied Palestinian territory, the enforced isolation of Palestinian towns, the destruction of homes and the isolation of Jerusalem;

4. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan to all their natural and economic resources, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, endanger or cause loss or depletion of these resources;

5. Also reaffirms that Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, are illegal and an obstacle to economic and social development;

6. Stresses the importance of the work of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations, and of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories under the auspices of the Secretary-General;

7. Urges Member States to encourage private foreign investment in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, in infrastructure, job-creation projects and social development, in order to alleviate the hardship of the Palestinian people and improve living conditions;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue to include, in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories, an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies;

9. Decides to include this item in the agenda of its substantive session of 1999.

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Agenda item 13 (a)

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Indonesia*, Canada and New Zealand: draft resolution

Report of the Committee for Development Planning on its thirty-second session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/210 of 18 December 1997 regarding the necessity of assessing the usefulness of a vulnerability index as a criterion for the designation of least developed countries,

Taking note of paragraph 167 of the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its thirty-second session,[1] which states that the Committee did not undertake such an assessment,

Taking note also of the content of the letter of the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, which was circulated as a document of the Economic and Social Council,[2] advancing reasons to support the position that the review of Vanuatu's status should be deferred to the year 2000,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 14 (E/1998/34).

[2] E/1998/89, annex.

1. Affirms the need for such an assessment to be made as a precursor to a decision on the graduation of Vanuatu from the list of least developed countries;

2. Requests the Committee for Development Planning to provide to the Economic and Social Council a report on the usefulness of a vulnerability index as a criterion for the designation of least developed countries;

3. Further requests the Committee for Development Planning to include in its report consideration of the findings of the work of all relevant international agencies on the vulnerability of small island developing States;

4. Decides to postpone a decision on the graduation of Vanuatu until the Committee for Development Planning has completed its work on examining the usefulness of a vulnerability index as a criterion for the designation of least developed countries.

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Agenda item 13 (a)

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Indonesia*: draft resolution

Declaring the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries in which the Council recognized the contribution of international years to the furtherance of international cooperation and understanding,

Recalling also Agenda 21,[1] which was adopted by one hundred and eighty-two Governments at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit), on 14 June 1992, and the conclusions of the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session relative to sustainable tourism,

Stressing that the implementation of Agenda 21 requires the full integration of sustainable development in the tourism industry in order to ensure, inter alia, that travel and tourism provide a source of income for many people; that travel and tourism contribute to the conservation, protection and restoration of the Earth's ecosystem; that international trade in travel and tourism services takes place on a sustainable basis; and that environmental protection is an integral part of tourism development,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

98-21726 (E) 240798

Stressing also the need to promote the implementation of international conventions on environment and development, including those on biodiversity and climate change,

Bearing in mind the need for international cooperation in promoting tourism within the framework of sustainable development so as to meet the needs of present tourists and host countries and regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future, managing resources to fulfil economic, social, and aesthetic needs, and maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life-support systems,

Recognizing the support of the World Tourism Organization for the importance of ecotourism, and particularly of the designation of the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism, in fostering better understanding among peoples everywhere, in leading to greater awareness of the rich heritage of various civilizations and in bringing about a better appreciation of the inherent values of different cultures, thereby contributing to the strengthening of world peace,

Considering that the designation of the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism will encourage the intensification of cooperative efforts by Governments and international and regional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to achieve the aims of Agenda 21 in promoting development and the protection of the environment,

1. Recommends to the General Assembly that it declare the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism;

2. Invites States Members of the United Nations, and members of the specialized agencies and pertinent intergovernmental and governmental organizations, to exert all possible efforts on behalf of the success of the Year, in particular regarding ecotourism in developing countries;

3. Requests the Commission on Sustainable Development, in the framework of its discussion of tourism during its seventh session, to recommend to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, supportive measures and activities which will contribute to a successful Year;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide, in accordance with the guidelines for future international years as contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, necessary support to ensure the success of the Year, including widespread dissemination of pertinent information;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization and the World Travel and Tourism Council, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report containing;

(a) Programmes and activities undertaken by Governments and interested organizations during the Year;

(b) An assessment of the results achieved in realizing the aims and objectives of the Year, particularly in terms of encouraging ecotourism in developing countries;

(c) Recommendations to further advance the promotion of ecotourism within the framework of sustainable development.

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Agenda item 13 (a)

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Indonesia*: draft resolution

Protection against products harmful to health and the environment

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 37/137 of 17 December 1982, 38/149 of 19 December 1983, 39/229 of 18 December 1984 and 44/226 of 22 December 1989, as well as Assembly decisions 47/439 of 22 December 1992 and 50/431 of 20 December 1995,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment,[1] which contains a review of the sales publication Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or not Approved by Governments,

Noting with satisfaction the continued close collaboration among the United Nations, the World Health Organization and United Nations Environment Programme in the preparation of the Consolidated List,

Taking into account the need to continue to utilize the work being undertaken by relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations in this area, as well as that being carried out

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] A/53/156-E/1998/78.

under international agreements and conventions in related areas in updating the Consolidated List,

Taking note of the successful conclusion of the negotiations to develop a legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment[1] and notes the progress being achieved in increasing the number of countries that participate in the preparation of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or not Approved by Governments;

2. Expresses its appreciation for the cooperation extended by Governments in the preparation of the Consolidated List and urges all Governments, in particular those that have not yet done so, to provide the necessary information to relevant organizations for inclusion in future issues of the Consolidated List;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to prepare the Consolidated List focusing on chemicals and pharmaceutical products in alternate years, with the same frequency for each official language in publishing the Consolidated List as envisioned in General Assembly resolutions 39/229 and 44/226;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary technical assistance to developing countries, at their request, for the establishment and/or strengthening of national capacity for managing hazardous chemicals and pharmaceutical products;

5. Urges the adoption of the agreed text of the convention on the application of the prior informed consent procedure at the diplomatic conference to be held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, and a speedy ratification thereafter;

6. Invites the Trade and Environment Committee of the World Trade Organization to complete its review, for possible revival, of the domestically prohibited goods notification system;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to report every three years, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/229, on the implementation of the present resolution and of previous Assembly resolutions on the same subject.

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Agenda item 7 (b)

COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS: MALARIA AND DIARRHOEAL DISEASES, IN PARTICULAR CHOLERA

Indonesia*: draft resolution

Malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the agreed conclusions of the coordination segment of its substantive session of 1993,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 1994/34 of 29 July 1994 and 1995/63 of 28 July 1995 and General Assembly resolutions 49/135 of 19 December 1994 and 50/128 of 20 December 1995,

Noting with concern that malaria and diarrhoeal diseases remain prevalent in developing countries, especially in Africa, and also noting their dire consequences for health and development in Africa,

Recognizing that these diseases especially afflict people living in poverty, that effective and affordable means of preventing and treating them are available and that combating them is an effective and essential element in eradicating poverty and fostering development,

Noting the leadership role in global malaria control given to the World Health Organization in General Assembly resolution 49/135 and Economic and

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/48/3/Rev.1), chap. III, sect. A.

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98-21738 (E) 240798

Social resolution 1995/63, and the role of the World Health Organization in directing and coordinating international efforts to prevent and control these diseases,

Acknowledging the important contributions of the United Nations funds and programmes and the role of the United Nations Children's Fund and other bodies of the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and a wide variety of individuals and organizations in controlling these diseases,

Noting in particular the critical role of industry in supporting research and development of vaccines, drugs and diagnostic tests that will further improve the efficacy of control efforts and the catalytic role being played by the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases of the World Health Organization in supporting industry,

Warmly acknowledging the statement supporting malaria prevention and control made during the summit meeting of the Heads of State of the Group of Eight, held in Birmingham in May 1998, and the pledge of 60 million pounds in support of the Roll Back Malaria initiative of the World Health Organization,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera;[2]

2. Supports the actions taken in 1997 and 1998 with respect to Malaria prevention and control in the context of African economic recovery and development by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity;

3. Appreciates the actions taken to strengthen research in endemic countries of Africa under the Multilateral Initiative on Malaria in Africa, an initiative widely supported by members of the international development community and by scientists within those endemic countries;

4. Endorses the Roll Back Malaria initiative of the World Health Organization supporting the existing African initiative on malaria;

5. Requests the United Nations, and appeals to international organizations, multilateral financial institutions, the specialized agencies, organs and programmes of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other groups, to join as partners in this initiative by, inter alia, contributing technical and financial support;

6. Notes that vaccines provide some of the most effective means of preventing disease and that vaccine development, although now made more feasible by multiple developments in the field of biotechnology, remains a difficult and long-term task highly deserving of increased financial support;

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[2] E/1998/20.

7. Stresses the importance of adopting national plans of action in conformity with the Global Malaria Control Strategy of the World Health Organization[3] in countries where malaria is endemic;

8. Urges international development partners, in collaboration with private industry, to intensify their efforts to develop and widely distribute vaccines and other remedies against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, including cholera;

9. Calls upon the international community, in particular the donor countries, to expand financial resources as well as other assistance including medical and technical assistance to the affected developing countries, in particular the African countries, for the implementation of work plans and projects in this field;

10. Urges the Director-General of the World Health Organization to continue to provide, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund and other concerned United Nations agencies and programmes and other relevant international organizations such as International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research and the International Vaccine Institute, technical expertise and support to endemic countries;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a progress report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999 on the implementation of the present resolution, to be prepared in collaboration with the Director-General of the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations, organs, bodies and programmes of the United Nations system.

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[3] WHO, A Global Strategy for Malaria Control (Geneva, 1993).

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COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS: INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE, 2000

Bangladesh, Chile, Costa Rica*, Côte d'Ivoire*, Ecuador*, El Salvador, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Togo and Turkey: draft resolution

International Year for the Culture of Peace, 2000

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/15, of 20 November 1997, by which the Assembly proclaimed the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace,

Recalling also that the General Assembly, in its resolution 52/13 of 20 November 1997, requested the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to submit a consolidated report containing a draft declaration and programme of action on a culture of peace to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session,

1. Notes with satisfaction the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, on the current state of preparations for the International Year for the Culture of Peace, 2000,[1] for which the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has been designated the focal point;

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] E/1998/52, annex.

2. Requests the General Assembly to adopt a programme of action for the year 2000;

3. Stresses that, since the Year serves as the end of one millennium and the eve of another, the transition from a culture of war and violence to a culture of peace and non-violence is a process of great historic significance;

4. Recognizes, therefore, that the promotion of a culture of peace should be a high-profile theme in the several mobilizing events and evaluations being planned for the year 2000, at the national, regional and international levels, such as the following:

(a) The International Year affords the opportunity to make national actions broad-based, providing a special opportunity to promote peace, non-violence, reconciliation and national unity and to prevent violent conflicts;

(b) At the regional and international levels, the International Year will underline the priorities of peace, development and democracy and the central role that concerted action by different entities of the United Nations system can play in promoting a culture of peace;

(c) The proposed Millennium Assembly during the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly in the year 2000 should be associated closely with the programme of activities for the International Year;

(d) The promotion of a culture of peace should be a reference point in the implementation of the decisions of the global conferences held at Jomtien, Copenhagen and Beijing.[2]

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[2] See Final Report of the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs, Jomtien, Thailand, 5-9 March 1990, Inter-Agency Commission for the World Conference on Education for All, New York, 1990; Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8); and Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13).

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Agenda item 6

INTEGRATED AND COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO MAJOR UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the Council on the basis of informal consultations

Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[1]

Affirming that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[2] and for achieving the overall goal of gender equality,

Recognizing the importance of integrating a gender perspective in development as well as in all other policy areas and of addressing the disparity of opportunities between women and men at all stages of their lives if gender equality is to be achieved,

Welcoming the steps already taken by various entities of the United Nations system, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional and regional commissions and other subsidiary bodies, the United Nations Secretariat, the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the

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[1] A/52/3, chap. IV, sect. A.

[2] Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality and other subsidiary machinery of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the Executive Committees, as well as specialized agencies, funds and programmes, to implement agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the Council,

1. Invites the United Nations system, in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action, to take into account the different obstacles to the development and empowerment of women in all regions and their roles as actors and beneficiaries of development;

2. Reaffirms that the recommendations contained in its agreed conclusions 1997/2 should be implemented as a matter of urgency and at the latest by the time of the five-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2000, and calls on all parts of the United Nations system to take immediate action in this regard;

3. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the 1997 coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system;[3]

4. Requests all entities of the United Nations system, in particular the funds and programmes in their operational activities, to adopt a comprehensive, integrated and multisectoral approach to implementing the Beijing Platform for Action;

5. Welcomes the efforts of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat to contribute to the inclusion of a gender perspective in the reports of the Secretariat and reiterates that all reports from entities of the Secretariat should reflect a gender perspective;

6. Urges the Commission of the Status of Women to continue to provide suggestions to the Council and its subsidiary bodies, in particular to other functional commissions, on further measures to implement the strategy of gender mainstreaming;

7. Decides to pay particular attention to the feminization of poverty, its causes and remedies when reviewing the theme of poverty eradication in 1999, and to ensure a gender perspective when reviewing the implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits, and requests that any documentation to be prepared for this purpose provide an adequate basis to this end;

8. Decides to continue to monitor annually the way in which its functional commissions and subsidiary bodies implement the Beijing Platform for Action, inter alia, by mainstreaming a gender perspective, under the agenda items "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits" and "Advancement of women".

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[3] E/1998/64.

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Agenda item 13

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

Mozambique:* draft decision

Report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[1]

Commending the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and in-depth review of development challenges in Africa,

Taking note of the recommendations contained in the report,

Decides, subsequent to the consideration of the report by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, to undertake substantive discussions on the implementation of the relevant recommendations at its substantive session of 1999.

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* On behalf of the African States.

[1] A/52/871-S/1998/318; see also E/1998/88.

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ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Anwarul Chowdhury (Bangladesh), on the basis of informal consultations

Protection against products harmful to health and the environment

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 37/137 of 17 December 1982, 38/149 of 19 December 1983, 39/229 of 18 December 1984 and 44/226 of 22 December 1989, as well Assembly decisions 47/439 of 22 December 1992 and 50/431 of 20 December 1995.

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment,[1] which contains a review of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or not Approved by Governments,

Noting with satisfaction the continued close collaboration between the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme in the preparation of the Consolidated List,

Taking note of the successful conclusion of the negotiations to develop a legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade (Rotterdam Convention),

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[1] A/53/156-E/1998/78.

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment[1] and notes the progress being achieved in increasing the number of countries that participate in the preparation of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or not Approved by Governments;

2. Expresses its appreciation for the cooperation extended by Governments in the preparation of the Consolidated List and urges all Governments, in particular those that have not yet done so, to provide the necessary information to relevant organizations for inclusion in future issues of the Consolidated List;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to prepare the Consolidated List focusing on chemicals and pharmaceutical products in alternate years, with the same frequency for each official language in publishing the Consolidated List as envisioned in General Assembly resolutions 39/229 and 44/226;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary technical assistance to developing countries, at their request, for the establishment and/or strengthening of national capacity for managing hazardous chemicals and pharmaceutical products;

5. Urges the adoption of the agreed text of the Rotterdam Convention at the diplomatic conference to be held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on 10 and 11 September 1998 and calls for a speedy ratification by the signatories of the Convention, aimed at its early entry into force;

6. Emphasizes the need to continue to utilize the work being undertaken by relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations in this area, as well as that being carried out under international agreements and conventions in related areas in updating the Consolidated List;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to report every three years, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/229, on the implementation of the present resolution and of previous Assembly resolutions on the same subject.